

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-09 L-03 NEA-10

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USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1218

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TAGS: P/M, MCAP, NATO, DA

SUBJECT: DPC MEETING 8 MARCH 1973 - RESTRUCTURING DANISH FORCES

REF: USNATO 1212

TEXT OF AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD' S STATEMENT AT 8 MARCH DPC
MEETING ON PROPOSED CHANGES IN DANISH DEFENSE (REFERRED
TO IN USNATO 1212) FOLLOWS: QUOTE:

WE HAVE STUDIED THE DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE AND WOULD AGREE THAT
THE DANISH PROPOSAL UNDER CONSIDERATION MUST BE MEASURED AGAINST THE
1968 NATO DECLARATION NOT TO REDUCE MILITARY CAPABILITY EXCEPT IN THE
CONTEXT OF MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS. AND AS HAS BEEN
MENTIONED, THIS PRINCIPLE WAS SPECIFICALLY REAFFIRMED IN THE
COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY OUR DEFENSE MINISTERS HERE IN BRUSSELS AS
RECENTLY AS THREE MONTHS AGO.

IN OUR VIEW, THE PROPOSAL OF THE DANISH GOVERNMENT COULD HAVE A
NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE OVERALL LEVEL OF DEFENSE EFFORT WITHIN THE
ALLIANCE.

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WE SUPPORT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE' S CONCLUSIONS (AND ASSOCIATE
OURSELVES WITH THE CONCERNS OF THE DEAN AND OUR OTHER COLLEAGUES)

ABOUT THE PROBABLE EFFECTS OF THE DANISH PROPOSAL. THE MILITARY COMMITTEE CONCLUDED THAT:

" A) THE PROPOSED RESTRUCTURING WOULD HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE DEFENSE CAPABILITY OF THE DANISH FORCES;

" B) THERE WOULD BE A WEAKENING IN THE DEFENSE OF THE NORTHERN FLANK; AND

" C) THE RESTRUCTURING IS IN DIRECT OPPOSITION TO SPIRIT OF AD-70 AND THE 1968 DECLARATION."

THIS IS NOT THE TIME IN OUR JUDGMENT TO SLACKEN THE DEFENSE EFFORT OF THE ALLIANCE. WE HAVE SPENT A GOOD DEAL OF TIME DISCUSSING OUR MBFR STANCE. AS WE PREPARE HOPEFULLY FOR MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, PROPOSALS SUCH AS THAT BEFORE US TODAY CLEARLY TEND TO WEAKEN OUR STANCE. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT NATO'S POSTURE BE ONE OF RESOLVE TO AVOID REDUCTION OF MILITARY CAPABILITY EXCEPT IN THE CONTEXT OF MBFR. ON THE CONTRARY, NATO SHOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE FORCE IMPROVEMENTS.

WE ARE VERY MUCH CONCERNED THAT THE REDUCED DANISH DEFENSE EFFORT WILL HARM NATO'S MILITARY POSTURE IN THE NORTHERN REGION. IN PARTICULAR, I WOULD EXPRESS OUR STRONG NEGATIVE VIEW OF THE PLANNED REDUCTION IN THE TRAINING PERIOD FOR CONSCRIPTS IN THE DANISH MILITARY FORCES, AND THE INCREASED RELIANCE ON RESERVE FORCES, WHOSE AVAILABILITY AND READINESS ARE DOUBTED BY OUR MILITARY COMMITTEE. I MUST ALSO MENTION THE DANGER OF PRESSURE FOR SIMILAR ACTIONS BY OTHER ALLIES WHICH WOULD FURTHER WEAKEN THE OVERALL ALLIANCE DEFENSE POSTURE.

I AGREE WITH THE POINT MADE BY THE NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR - THE ISSUE IS NOT WHETHER MILITARY FORCES SHOULD BE RECRUITED BY CONSCRIPTION OR BY VOLUNTARY ACCESSION; EITHER IS OBVIOUSLY ACCEPTABLE. THE TEST IS WHETHER ADEQUATELY TRAINED FORCES - ADEQUATE IN NUMBERS - WILL BE READY TO DEFEND DENMARK UNTIL REINFORCEMENTS FOR HER NATO ALLIES ARRIVE. THE MILITARY COMMITTEE CONCLUDES 9 MONTHS IS TOO SHORT A PERIOD OF TRAINING. IT ALSO CONCLUDES THAT TOO FEW DANISH FORCES WILL BE READILY AVAILABLE, REGARDLESS OF HOW THESE TROOPS ARE RECRUITED. CONFIDENTIAL

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WE NOTE THE PROJECTED INCREASES IN DEFENSE SPENDING IN REAL TERMS OVER THE LEVEL PLANNED AT THE TIME OF THE 1972 DPC DEFENSE REVIEW. IN THAT MILITARY EFFECTIVENESS DEPENDS IN LARGE PART UPON MONEY AND MANPOWER, WE CERTAINLY HOPE THAT THE INCREASES IN DEFENSE SPENDING IN REAL BUYING POWER WILL MATERIALIZE.

FINALLY, WE ENCOURAGE THE DANISH AUTHORITIES TO TAKE NOTE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SEVERAL SPECIFIC MODIFICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED NEW DEFENSE PROGRAM -- RECOMMENDATIONS FOUND IN THE

CONCLUDING SECTION OF SACEUR' S ASSESSMENT. SPECIFICALLY WE URGE
RECONSIDERATION OF THE 3- MONTHS REDUCTION IN THE CONSCRIPTION
TERM AND PROVISION FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND RELIABILITY OF
THE DANISH RESERVES. THESE MODIFICATIONS WOULD, I BELIEVE,
HELP TO ALLEVIATE SOME OF THE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES OF THE
PROPOSAL BEFORE US. END QUOTE.
RUMSFELD

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